

The transmit power of a CDMA downlink channel is controlled from a base station by receiving a command signal from a mobile station requesting it to decrease the transmit power of the downlink channel. In response, the base station decreases the transmit power if a hypothetically decremented value of the transmit power is higher than a nominal lower limit of its power control range, and further decreases the transmit power if the downlink channel still has a quality higher than a specified value at the mobile station even when the hypothetically decremented value is lower than the nominal lower limit. The base station sets the transmit power equal to the nominal lower limit if the hypothetically decremented value is lower than the nominal lower limit and the downlink channel still has a quality higher than the specified value at the mobile station.